FORESTRY NEWS

Forestry Education On the Reservation

What do third graders and NAU graduate students have in common? Not much, you might say. However, the 1.68 million acre Fort Apache Indian Reservation, home to the White Mountain Apache Tribe, provides an excellent laboratory when it comes to forestry education.   Argua-

3rd-graders, notebooks in hand, learn about the values of trees on the reservation.   At this point they were learning the Apache name for pondero-sa pine from Dino Manuel.

bly, third graders might be cuter, but students of all ages are able to learn many important aspects of forest management as they step into the forest, whether or not they call this beautiful place home. The third graders are from Whiteriver Elementary and were able to visit the Williams Creek Fish Hatchery to learn about forestry, water quality, fisheries, & wildlife.

Later, back in their class-rooms, they did science fair projects that related to what they had learned in the field. It was great to see their enthu-siasm in the outdoor environ-ment! Graduate students also enjoy being outdoors.   NAU has been visiting the reserva-tion since 2009, however, this was the first time that students were able to view an active timber sale.   They were im-pressed with the mechanical harvesting equipment and the care with which the logger

Jere McLemore discusses for-estry issues as Forest Manager Robert Lacapa and Professor Kristen Waring hold the map.

was able to lower any cut trees to the ground.   On this 37.7 million BF timber sale, approximately 1 tree in 3 is being harvested.   The large material is sent to WMATCO for processing into lumber while smaller diameter mate-rial and tree tops head to the pellet mill in Show Low or to markets for processing posts and poles or similar products.

Above: Long-time reservation logger Tommy Holl leads NAU graduate students on a tour of an active timber sale. **Below**: Students pose for a class picture in front of a large log deck.